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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/871,086	05/31/2001	Ari P. Heikkinen	456-010392-US(PAR)	9314
2512	7590	11/14/2006	EXAMINER	
PERMAN & GREEN 425 POST ROAD FAIRFIELD, CT 06824			VO, HUYEN X	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2626	

DATE MAILED: 11/14/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/871,086

Applicant(s)

HEIKKINEN, ARI P.

Examiner

Huyen X. Vo

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 28 August 2006.
2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 May 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-18 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection in view of Chong et al. (US 6590946), necessitated by claim amendment.

Claim Objections

2. Claims 1, 8, 12, and 15 are objected to because of the following informalities: the specification and drawings merely discuss a step of determining voicing parameters from input speech signal (*page 12, lines 9-16*), but not from the modified signal as claimed in independent claims 1, 8, 12, and 15. Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claims 1, 8, 12, and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Chong et al. (US 6590946).

5. Regarding claims 1, 8, and 15, Chong et al. disclose a method, apparatus, and network element of encoding speech comprising the steps of:

formulating a speech signal from utterances spoken by a speaker (*element 100 in figure 1*);

determining an estimate of periodicity from the formulated signal by estimating pitch pulse locations from the formulated signal (*element 102 in figure 1 or referring to col. 4, line 48 to col. 5, line 17*);

modifying the formulated signal using the periodicity estimate such that the pitch pulses are spaced substantially equally along a time axis and thus, changing a pitch periods of the formulated signal improving periodicity (*figure 2 or col. 5, lines 29-63*);

determining at least one voicing parameter based on the modified signal, the voicing parameter being either voiced or unvoiced (*element 103 in figure 1, voicing classification*);

deciding the encoding method based on at least one determined voicing parameter (*end result of figure 2 is extracted for coding; only one coding method is claimed*); and

encoding the modified signal in a speech encoder (*end result of figure 2 is extracted for coding*).

6. Regarding claim 12 Chong et al. disclose a mobile device comprising:

a speech coder (*end result of figure 2 is extracted for coding*);

means for formulating a speech signal from utterances spoken by a speaker
(*element 100 in figure 1*);

means for determining an estimate of periodicity from the formulated signal by
estimating pitch pulse locations from the formulated signal (*element 102 in figure 1 or
referring to col. 4, line 48 to col. 5, line 17*);

means for modifying the formulated signal using the periodicity estimate such
that the pitch pulses are spaced substantially equally along a time axis and thus,
changing a pitch periods of the formulated signal improving periodicity (*figure 2 or col. 5,
lines 29-63*);

means for determining at least one voicing parameter based on the modified
signal, the voicing parameter being either voiced or unvoiced (*element 103 in figure 1,
voicing classification*);

means for deciding the encoding method based on at least one determined
voicing parameter (*end result of figure 2 is extracted for coding; only one coding method
is claimed*); and

means for encoding the modified signal in a speech encoder (*end result of figure
2 is extracted for coding*).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all
obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

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invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 10-11, 14, 16, and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chong et al. (US 6590946).

9. Regarding claim 10, 14, and 18, Chong et al. fail to specifically disclose an apparatus, mobile device, and network element, according to claims 8, 12, and 15, respectively, wherein the apparatus includes a memory comprising a software operating with a signal processor for providing means for transforming, estimating, and modifying the speech signal. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to write a software program performing the method taught by Chong et al. in order to minimize cost of maintaining and updating of system.

10. Regarding claims 11 and 16, Chong et al. fail to specifically disclose that the apparatus is integrated into a mobile device functioning with a wireless telecommunication network. However, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to implement the method taught by Chong et al. in mobile telephone order to improve the performance of compressing digitized speech data for transmission over digital communication channels.

11. Claims 2-3, 9, 13, 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chong et al. (US 6590946) in view of Manjunath et al. (US 6456964).

12. Regarding claim 2, Chong et al. fail to specifically disclose a method according to claim 1 wherein the formulated speech signal is a digitized signal such as a residual signal produced from a coding algorithm such as Linear Predictive Coding (LPC) or the actual speech signal itself. However, Manjunath et al. teach that the formulated speech signal is a digitized signal such as a residual signal produced from a coding algorithm such as Linear Predictive Coding (LPC) or the actual speech signal itself (*col. 5, lines 45-54*).

Since Chong et al. and Manjunath et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Chong et al. by incorporating the teaching of Manjunath et al. in order to achieve low bit rate while improving speech quality of reconstructed signal.

13. Regarding claim 3, Chong et al. fail to specifically disclose the method according to claim 1 wherein the determining an estimate of periodicity step comprises obtaining a normalized pitch cycle by autocorrelation. However, Manjunath et al. disclose a method according to claim 1 wherein the determining an estimate of periodicity step comprises obtaining a normalized pitch cycle by autocorrelation (*col. 10, line 26 to col. 11, line 40*).

Since Chong et al. and Manjunath et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Chong et al. by incorporating the teaching of

Manjunath et al. in order to achieve low bit rate while improving speech quality of reconstructed signal.

14. Regarding claims 9, 13, and 17, Chong et al. fail to specifically disclose an apparatus, mobile device, and network element, according to claims 8, 12, and 17, respectively, wherein the formulating means includes software operating with a signal processor that is capable of generating a residual signal from a speech signal (*col. 21, lines 30-45*). However, Manjunath et al. teach that the formulating means includes software operating with a signal processor that is capable of generating a residual signal from a speech signal (*col. 21, lines 30-45*),

Since Chong et al. and Manjunath et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to modify Chong et al. by incorporating the teaching of Manjunath et al. in order to encode signal at low bit rate while maintaining good speech quality.

15. Claims 4-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chong et al. (US 6590946) in view of Manjunath et al. (US 6456964), as applied to claim 3, and further in view of Kleijn et al. (US 6223151).

16. Regarding claims 4-5, the modified Chong et al. fail to specifically disclose that the modifying step includes normalizing the pitch by shifting the time domain discrete

values of the residual signal to conform to the normalized pitch cycle, and the modifying step further comprises the speech signal being upsampled by interpolation such that suitable discrete values of the upsampled signal are shifted to conform to the average pitch cycle. However, Kleijn et al. further teach the step of normalizing the pitch by shifting the time domain discrete values of the residual signal to conform to the normalized pitch cycle (*col. 7, lines 59-67*), and the the speech signal being upsampled by interpolation such that suitable discrete values of the upsampled signal are shifted to conform to the average pitch cycle (*Interpolator 140 of figure 1*).

Since the modified Chong et al. and Kleijn et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavor, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention further modify Chong et al. by incorporating the teaching of Kleijn et al. in order to enable the speech encoder to encode speech signal such that good signal quality is preserved when decoded by the decoder.

17. Claims 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chong et al. (US 6590946) in view of Manjunath et al. (US 6456964), in view of Kleijn et al. (US 6223151), as applied to claim 5, and further in view of Kleijn (US 5517595).

18. Regarding claim 7, the modified Chong et al. fail to disclose that the modified signal is down sampled prior to encoding in the speech coder. However, Kleijn (US 5517595) further teaches that the modified signal is down sampled prior to encoding in the speech coder (*col. 11, lines 25-35*).

Since the modified Chong et al. and Kleijn (US 5517595) are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Manjunath et al. by incorporating the teaching of Kleijn (US 5517595) in order to lower bandwidth for the gain below the extraction frequency of the prototype waveform to minimize coding errors.

19. Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chong et al. (US 6590946) in view of Manjunath et al. (US 6456964), as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Donovan et al. (US 6266637).

20. Regarding claim 6, the modified Manjunath et al. fail to disclose that a pitch scaling algorithm such as Time Domain Pitch Synchronous Overlap-Add (TD-PSOLA) is used to normalize the pitch cycle lengths in an analysis frame. However, Donovan et al. teach that a pitch scaling algorithm such as Time Domain Pitch Synchronous Overlap-Add (TD-PSOLA) is used to normalize the pitch cycle lengths in an analysis frame (*col. 4, lines 1-25*).

Since the modified Manjunath et al. and Donovan et al. are analogous art because they are from the same field of endeavors, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of invention to further modify Manjunath et al. by incorporating the teaching of Donovan et al. in order to minimize signal degradation so to preserve characteristics of the original signal.

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Huyen X. Vo whose telephone number is 571-272-7631. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 9-5:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on 571-272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

HXV

11/7/2006


ABUL AZAD
PRIMARY EXAMINER